

while the root meaning (thought virus or memetic structure) embedded within slips unnoticed into the subconscious.

There is no inherent goodness in art. The idea to be conveyed in a work of art can have any quality from a startling revelation intended to better the human condition to a blatant deception designed to conceal truth and take power. On many occasions an artist will embed a root meaning into his art which he believes will serve the greater good, but in reality the artist's concept of the greater good may be nothing more than an unusually complex example of the replication phase of a thought virus of which the artist has been infected without his knowledge. Most artists, like most people, are programmed by the dominant memetic structures, or cultural ideal types. Dominant memetic structures are only concerned with maintaining their dominance by replicating to as many minds as possible, not with the greater good of humanity, except in how the greater good of humanity serves to benefit the replication possibilities of the dominant memetic structure.

All artwork, even the most rudimentary, contains complex memetic structures residing at many different levels within the work of art. An intelligent mind can dilute a work of art much as a chemist can dilute a uniform mixture of diverse chemicals. Recognition of the root meanings inherent in artistic endeavors can lead an individual to a source of great understanding and power.

Artistic Symbolism

Every artistic endeavor contains numerous symbols embedded at many different levels within the work of art. Some of these symbols are imbedded into the art with willed conscious intent while others are the result of subconscious communication. Of the two types of symbols inherent in artwork the subconscious symbols are the most interesting. The consciously created symbols within artwork are complex memetic structures which can be correctly labeled *thought viruses* or *thought contagions*, depending on whether the memetic structure attempts

to use the mind it has infected for the purpose of further replication.

An individual wishing to spread fashioned thought viruses would do well to consider imbedding personal creations into a work of art and releasing that work of art to a target population. The artwork serves as an outer guise concealing the true form of the thought viruses contained within. The entertainment or aesthetic value of a work of art engages the attention of the conscious mind of the individual partaking of the work of art, allowing the thought viruses embedded within to penetrate the defenses of the unaware target's complex mental memetic structure. Once the thought viruses have penetrated, instructions can be disseminated and replication can commence.

The symbols contained within a work of art can assume a variety of different forms depending on the type of art being examined. For the sake of brevity, this chapter will focus primarily on literature and paintings. But the principals contained herein are equally valid in regards to any variety of artistic endeavor.

Symbolism in Literary Fiction

A literary novel will in most cases contain numerous elements of similarity with other literary works. Novels often contain theme, setting, moral, and characters. Each of these individual elements contributes to creating the artistic whole, or the novel. The artistic whole, the creation itself, contains a meta-layer of symbols. This uppermost layer contains the embedded symbolic structures in their undiluted form. A deeper examination of any work of art will convey the uppermost layer of undiluted symbolic structures. In fact, such deeper examinations of literary works occur daily in university literature courses. The problem is most of those engaged in the discussions focusing on the symbolism (root meanings) inherent in literary work project their own programmed symbolism into the literature, thereby missing the *meaning* behind the symbols they discuss. Many college students can spot the upper level symbolism inherent in literary work and name the symbols they have uncovered, but very